cases of tuberculosis in the State and that there are many people in Travancore now who are undergoing treatment in the Madanapalle Hospital. As you yourself said, the matter is engaging the attention of Government.

One other matter you mentioned was the establishment of an Executive Council in the State. There are other speakers also to deal with the subject. I will give my reply at the end of their representations.

182. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. KANAKKU NARAYANA PILLAI GOVINDA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) said that a drastic change in the constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was an imperative necessity. The institution should be invested with some measure of responsibility and power and should have a statutory basis. The property qualification of voters was too high. Only those who paid an annual tax of Rs. 50 had the franchise. The improvement in material conditions and the spread of education and political knowledge in recent years had given birth to a new political consciousness, not only among the well-to-do classes but very widely throughout the masses. In the countries of the west, the process of widening the electorate was carried on till it embraced the whole adult population, male and female. As a first step in that direction, all persons who paid a tax of Rs. 25 should be made voters for the election of members to the Assembly.

The term of membership in the Assembly should be extended to three years.

The bi-cameral system of legislation prevalent in the countries of the west should be introduced, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly being treated as the Second Chamber. Members of the Assembly should be empowered to ask questions and to move resolutions.

A committee, consisting of representatives of the Assembly and of the Legislative Council as well as a few official members, should be appointed to revise the constitution of the Assembly.

183 Public Service.

MR. A. P. NAYAR (*Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) said that corruption was rampant in the lower ranks of the Revenue and Judicial departments, and made the following suggestions for bringing about an improvement in the morale of the departments. In law, the receiver as well as the giver of illegal gratification was alike punishable. The receipt of illegal gratification should alone be regarded as an offence. Corrupt officers should be treated with ruthless severity and be made an example of.

There was unpardonable delay in the disposal of matters affecting the public weal. The remedy lay in making public service amenable to popular control.

In the matter of appointments, there were no definite rules for restricting the discretion of the heads of departments or for preventing the abuse of their powers. The officers distributed the appointments in their gift among the members of their own communities. Unjust appointments were, in some cases, sought to be justified on communal grounds and, in other cases, on the principle of efficiency. A Staff Selection Board should be constituted to recruit men to the lower ranks of the service. For making recruitments to higher ranks and incidentally, for affording bright careers to young men of talents, a civil service examination should be instituted.

DEWAN'S REPLY; Mr. Nayar, I shall give a common reply to you and to the other members who spoke on the same subject.

184. Need for making appointments in the Public service on the basis of communal representation alone.

MR. VARKEY ZACHARIA (*Municipal Council, Changanacherry*) said that there was an undue preponderance for Caste Hindus in the public service. Of the 495 appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 150 and above, 355 were held by them. That predominance existed in the lower ranks also of the service. Nearly 70 per cent. of the total number of appointments were shared by the Caste Hindu communities, though they formed only one-fourth of the total population of the State. The Ezhavas and the Catholic Christians who out-numbered the Caste Hindu population did not get even one-tenth of the representation of Brahmins or Nairs. That inequality would remain so long as Government failed to enforce the principle of communal representation in public service.

The communal ratio fixed by the High Court for the recruitment of Munsiffs did not satisfy the Catholic community. The community was not also benefited by the separation of Devaswoms from the Revenue department. All the 3 Dewan Peishkars and 7 out of the 8 Division Assistants were Caste Hindus.

There was uneasiness among the unrepresented communities as Government did not try and improve their lot. Government would not be able to plan and carry out schemes of popular welfare so long as the agitation for appointments existed in the country. There was only one means by which communal bickerings could be avoided and that was to recognise and give effect to the principle of communal representation. The plea that communal representation was inconsistent with efficiency was not found convincing by those to whom it was addressed as there were competent men in all communities.

The member, in conclusion, requested the Dewan to bring about an improvement in the relationship between the several communities by the immediate enforcement of the principle of communal representation in public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: The subject that I said was common to Mr. A. P. Nayar who made his representation last and to some of the